

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 24

2 **48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Mary Jane M. Garcia

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE
12 EXTENT OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NEW MEXICO AND TO MAKE
13 RECOMMENDATIONS.

14
15 WHEREAS, human trafficking is a serious problem in the
16 United States and throughout the world; and

17 WHEREAS, human traffickers prey on the most vulnerable and
18 turn a commercial profit at the expense of innocent lives; and

19 WHEREAS, victims of trafficking are recruited, transported
20 or sold into all forms of forced labor and servitude, including
21 prostitution, sweatshops, domestic service and farming; and

22 WHEREAS, each year an estimated six hundred thousand to
23 eight hundred thousand women, men and children are trafficked
24 against their will across international borders, fourteen
25 thousand five hundred to seventeen thousand five hundred of

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1 whom are trafficked into the United States; and

2 WHEREAS, approximately eighty percent of trafficking
3 victims are female, and seventy percent of those female victims
4 are trafficked for the commercial sex industry; and

5 WHEREAS, the southwest border continues to serve as the
6 biggest point of illegal entry into the United States, largely
7 because traffickers are able to get aliens across without
8 documents;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
10 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of public safety be
11 requested to assemble and chair a task force to assess the
12 nature and extent of human trafficking in New Mexico, to assess
13 state responses to date and to make recommendations to the
14 legislature for development of state law to prosecute
15 traffickers and for provision of services to victims; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consist of a
17 representative of the attorney general's office; the department
18 of public safety; the labor department; the department of
19 health; the children, youth and families department; and the
20 commission on the status of women; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may also
22 include representatives from the New Mexico coalition against
23 domestic violence; the southwest women's law center; an
24 immigrant or refugee rights center; a refugee services
25 organization; a child and youth advocacy organization; an

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1 interfaith religious organization, or a mental health services
2 advocacy organization; or a human rights or social justice
3 advocacy organization; and other members as deemed necessary;
4 and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force study the
6 nature and extent of human trafficking in this state;
7 investigate collaborative models for protecting victims of
8 trafficking; measure and evaluate New Mexico's progress in
9 preventing trafficking, assisting victims of trafficking and
10 prosecuting traffickers; evaluate approaches by other state and
11 local governments to increase public awareness of human
12 trafficking; and analyze existing state laws dealing with
13 trafficking; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force prepare a
15 report detailing its findings and recommendations, including
16 methods to address human trafficking and to provide a
17 coordinated system of support and assistance to its victims;
18 and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
20 findings and recommendations to the governor and the
21 legislature by July 1, 2008; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the governor and the secretary of public safety.